

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-04 AID-05 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /062 W

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R 051415Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY TU

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA FEZZANI PAID FARE-  
WELL CALL ON CHARGE NOV. 3. SUMMING UP HIS FOUR  
YEARS IN LIBYA, HE SAID THAT UNTIL DJERBA DECLARATION  
OF UNITY HE HAD FELT HE WAS MAKING SLOW BUT STEADY  
PROGRESS IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS. NUMBER  
OF JOINT PROJECTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED INCLUDING  
IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY  
FROM GAFSA TO TRIPOLI, AND LIBYAN INVESTMENT IN  
TUNISIA DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS FIELDS. IT WAS  
IMPOSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH QADHAFI, WHO WAS TOO PRE-  
OCCUPIED WITH HIS GRAND DESIGNS TO DISCUSS  
PRACTICAL MATTERS, BUT IN PRIMIN JALLUD AND RCC  
MEMBER AL-HUNI, NUMBERS TWO AND THREE IN REGIME  
DURING MOST OF HIS TENURE, HE HAD FOUND PEOPLE WITH  
WHOM IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DEAL. DJERBA DECLARA-  
TION HAD THROWN ALL THIS INTO A COCKED HAT, HOW-  
EVER. AFTER DJERBA HE HAD TRIED TO GET DISCUSSIONS  
GOING AGAIN ON SUCH MATTERS AS MEDIAN LINE FOR OFFSHORE OIL  
EXPLORATION PURPOSES, WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. MOST  
RECENTLY, GOT FONMIN CHATTI ON VISIT TO LIBYA  
HAD BEEN TOLD BY JALLUD THAT THERE COULD BE NO  
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PROGRESS IN LIBYAN-TUNISIAN RELATIONS UNTIL BOURGUIBA

AND QADHAFI MET AGAIN. DJERBA DECLARATION HAD CREATED A NEW SITUATION, AND UNTIL GOT-LARG RELATIONS WERE REDEFINED BY TWO CHIEFS OF STATE THEY WOULD REMAIN "FROZEN".

2. AMBASSADOR FEZZANI SAID GOT HAD REQUESTED AGREEMENT FOR HIS SUCCESSOR IN EARLY OCTOBER, AND HAD ASKED FOR ANSWER WITHIN A WEEK, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD WARNED THAT LARG NOT LIKELY TO MAKE UP ITS MIND IN SUCH SHORT TIME. GOT WAS STILL WAITING FOR ANSWER.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID FORMER TUNISIAN FONMIN MASMOUDI, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS NOW "HALF POLITICIAN, HALF BUSINESSMAN", MAINTAINED CLOSE LINKS WITH LIBYA. HE HAD TRAVELLED HERE SIX OR SEVEN TIMES FROM PARIS SINCE HE LOST HIS JOB.

4. FOR AMBASSADOR SEELYE: AMBASSADOR FEZZANI IS RETURNING NEXT WEEK TO TUNIS, WHERE HE WILL BE ON LEAVE UNTIL AFTER NEW YEAR. HE IS VERY FRANK AND WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS US, AND AM SURE HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY MEET AND TALK WITH YOU. STEIN

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## Message Attributes

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